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thor has treated all questions from a purely legal point of view without permitting himself to enter the field of political discussion. The result is the production of a critical but apparently thoroughly impartial piece of work, in which the German bias that might possibly be anticipated is entirely lacking.

ROBERT T. CRANE.

Comparative Free Government. By JESSE MACY and JOHN W. GANNAWAY. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1915. Pp. xviii, 754.)

This book by Professors Macy and Gannaway, of Grinnell College, is one of the series of *Social Science Text-Books* edited by Prof. Richard T. Ely, of the University of Wisconsin. By far the larger part of the book (549 pages) is devoted to American and English government. Forty-two pages are devoted to France, twenty-two to Germany, thirty-two to Switzerland, seven to the smaller states of Europe, and thirty-three to South America. The book closes with a chapter of ten pages on "Federation and Democracy."

The evident purpose of the authors has been to prepare a text-book for the college student just beginning the study of political science. They say in the preface: "The comparative study of government is particularly valuable for the student just beginning his work in political science." And again: "The authors of this book are firm in the belief that the basic course in political science should be comparative in nature."

Many instructors will, no doubt, prefer to begin their work in political science with a course based on a book covering the general principle of the subject, but a course based on a book "comparative in nature" would have some obvious advantages. It would be more concrete and more definitely informing. It is also probably true that the laws of political science would reveal themselves just as effectively in an indirect way.

On the whole, the authors have done their work well. The exposition is good and the material is well organized. The concrete analysis of governmental forms, however, is rather more satisfactory than the theory or the historical background.

The book impresses one at times as being somewhat thin and insubstantial. Professor Ogg's book on *The Governments of Modern Europe* is a magazine of facts, while the present volume sometimes tends in

the opposite direction—a good discussion of the general principles without an adequate substratum of fact.

The treatment of American and English government is adequate for a book of this character, but the chapter on the government of the German Empire is rather sketchy and unsatisfactory. The treatment of the minor states of Europe is wholly inadequate. It is to be presumed, however, that the authors thought it advisable to give greater space to those governments which had made the most noteworthy advances in democracy.

The book is up to date in every respect and treats of many phases of recent development, such as the Federal Trade Commission of 1915. It is remarkable how soon a book on government gets out of date. The difference in this respect between the present volume and the latest edition of Bryce's *American Commonwealth*, for example, is marked.

As might be expected not all of the conclusions of the book will be accepted by the critics. Not every one would agree for example, that the electoral college was an "invention" of the constitutional convention (page 14). The proofreading has been remarkably well done but there is a typographical error occasionally, such as Dickenson for Dickinson (page 458), and Leckey for Lecky (page 497).

THOMAS F. MORAN.

Bibliography of Municipal Government. By WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1915. Pp. ix, 416.)

Not since the work of R. C. Brooks of which the last edition was published in 1901 has there previously appeared a comprehensive bibliography in the special field of municipal government. During the last fifteen years, the only bibliographical sources available beyond short lists appended to text-books have been compiled from year to year by periodicals devoted entirely or in part to municipal topics, and during the past two or three years, the Public Affairs Information Service. The former of these sources have not been sufficiently complete; and the latter, being exhaustive, offers none of the advantages of discriminating selection.

To any one who is familiar with the peculiar difficulty of handling so huge a literature as that on municipal affairs, it is the selective, rather than the exhaustive, quality of such a work which will be most